

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OLL	X			
15	D/PAO		X		
16	SA/IA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPD/OIS				
19	VC/NIC				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks

3637 (10-81)

Executive Secretary

26 Dec 84

Date

STAT

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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SURFACE
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POST OFFICE AND
CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CIVIL SERVICE

POSTAL PERSONNEL
AND MODERNIZATION

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON CHILDREN, YOUTH
AND FAMILIES

December 19, 1984

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

After returning last week from five days in Ethiopia that included two nights in the feeding camps at Alamata, I am pleased and proud to report that because of your efforts and the generosity of the American people, much progress has been made in supplying the Ethiopian people with food. At the same time, I must report that supplies of adequate food are only part of the problem at this point.

Equally great is the need for shelter and medical supplies. At night, the temperature drops as low as 32 degrees and many of the children have little or no clothing. People are dying because they lack shelter and blankets.

I am recommending that the United States lead an international airlift to Ethiopia which could provide basic shelter and sanitary conditions for these people to prevent death, epidemics and disease from ravaging this nation. I believe that an airlift which could quickly establish base camps offers the best opportunity to provide the relief needed to bring the Ethiopian people through their crisis.

The airlift should utilize appropriate cargo planes to ship self-sustaining "camps." These camps should include trucks, complete cooking facilities, shelter such as plastic tarpaulin, oral rehydration and medical supplies, fuel, food and sanitation supplies. Such camps could be dropped in remote areas which are inaccessible by ground transportation. All available military personnel or perhaps the National Guard should be utilized. After the government has taken the lead in this intensive effort, the private voluntary organizations could take over and operate the camps.

Such a massive effort is not without precedent in our nation. In recent history, the U.S. has played a major role in providing aid to other countries during natural disasters. In 1976 U.S. Army helicopters ferried medicine to earthquake victims in Guatemala. By July 1978, the U.S. had provided \$42 million in government aid and \$42.8 million in voluntary contributions for Guatemala disaster relief. Personnel came from the military, the

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Peace Corps, the U.S. Embassy and many voluntary relief organizations to work in Guatemala. An initial shipment of relief supplies taken from stocks in the Panama Canal Zone included 500 tents, 250 quarts of plasma, an emergency generator, 12 water tanks, a first aid station, a sterilizer and medical supplies.

This relief effort was the result of the coordination of U.S. government and private funds, military aircraft and personnel, and supplies donated by the private sector. Most of the same parties contributed to other U.S. aid projects in Italy in 1980 after a devastating earthquake, as part of the Berlin airlift after World War II and during a famine relief assistance project to Russian peasants in the early 1900's.

In addition, I believe it is crucial that you appoint a high level emissary assigned by you personally to meet with Ethiopian officials and negotiate the airlift effort. Someone of the stature of General Walters should be considered to lead this effort. It will also be important to our ongoing efforts to assist the Ethiopian people that you appoint an U.S. ambassador in Ethiopia who would be highly visible and serve as an articulate spokesperson for the United States in working with the Ethiopian government.

Some will no doubt argue that this offer will be refused or hindered by the Marxist-Communist Ethiopian government. I believe, however, that the U.S. must still make the offer. Perhaps when their government sees our willingness to provide such generous humanitarian assistance they will realize the advantages of accepting. The people have seen, as I did, Soviet troops and helicopters in Ethiopia and know that while they are providing military supplies, the United States is providing relief. This has not been lost on the people of Ethiopia and will not be lost on the people of the Third World.

I believe a good faith effort from the United States to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia through an airlift project can serve as a example to Third World and other African nations that the American people are sincerely concerned about the very survival of these peoples. Without our direct involvement, however, thousands more will die and food currently being sent to Ethiopia may be siphoned off by the 250,000 military rather than delivered to the needy.

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I also have some personnel recommendations on more specific needs in Ethiopia which I have shared with Director McPherson at AID and which are included in the enclosed letter. I hope you will also consider these.

Mr. President, we all know of your humanitarian spirit and deep feeling for people who suffer here and elsewhere. I know that you can feel and appreciate the plight of the man who held up his arms and begged me to help his only daughter who was starving and needed shelter. Our nation has the opportunity to make a difference and reach out in the finest tradition of the American spirit of compassion and giving by leading a massive airlift effort for Ethiopia. I urge your quick and courageous action and offer my assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW/bm
enclosure